

# Testing the Dynamic Habitat Indices from MODIS for biodiversity and conservation

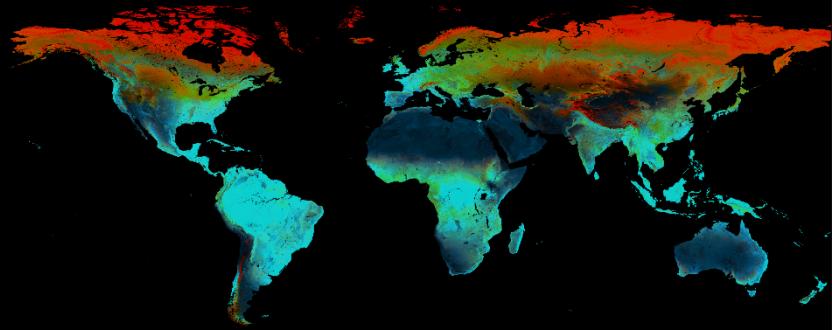
Volker C. Radeloff, M. Hobi, M. Dubinin, E. Razenkova, L. Zhu,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

A. Allen, B. Borisov, T. Brooks, M. Clayton, N. Coops, C. Graham, T.  
Ives, D. Koselov, J. Marin, A. Pidgeon, G. Rapacciulo

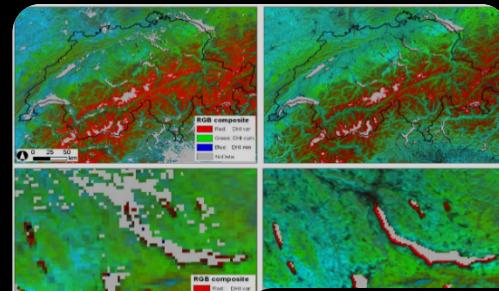
NASA Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting  
Science Team Meeting, 5/24/2017

# Outline

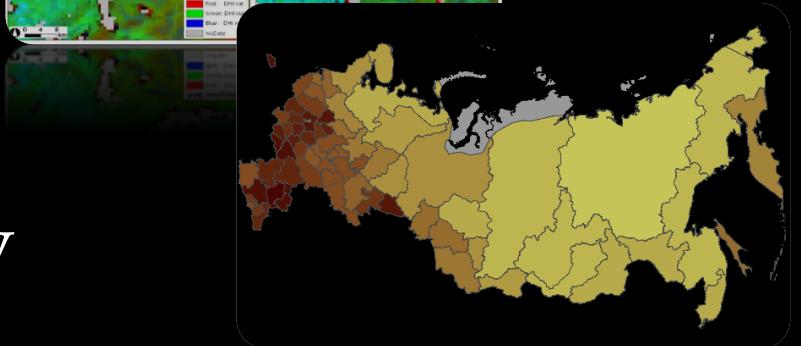
I. Background: the Dynamic Habitat Indices



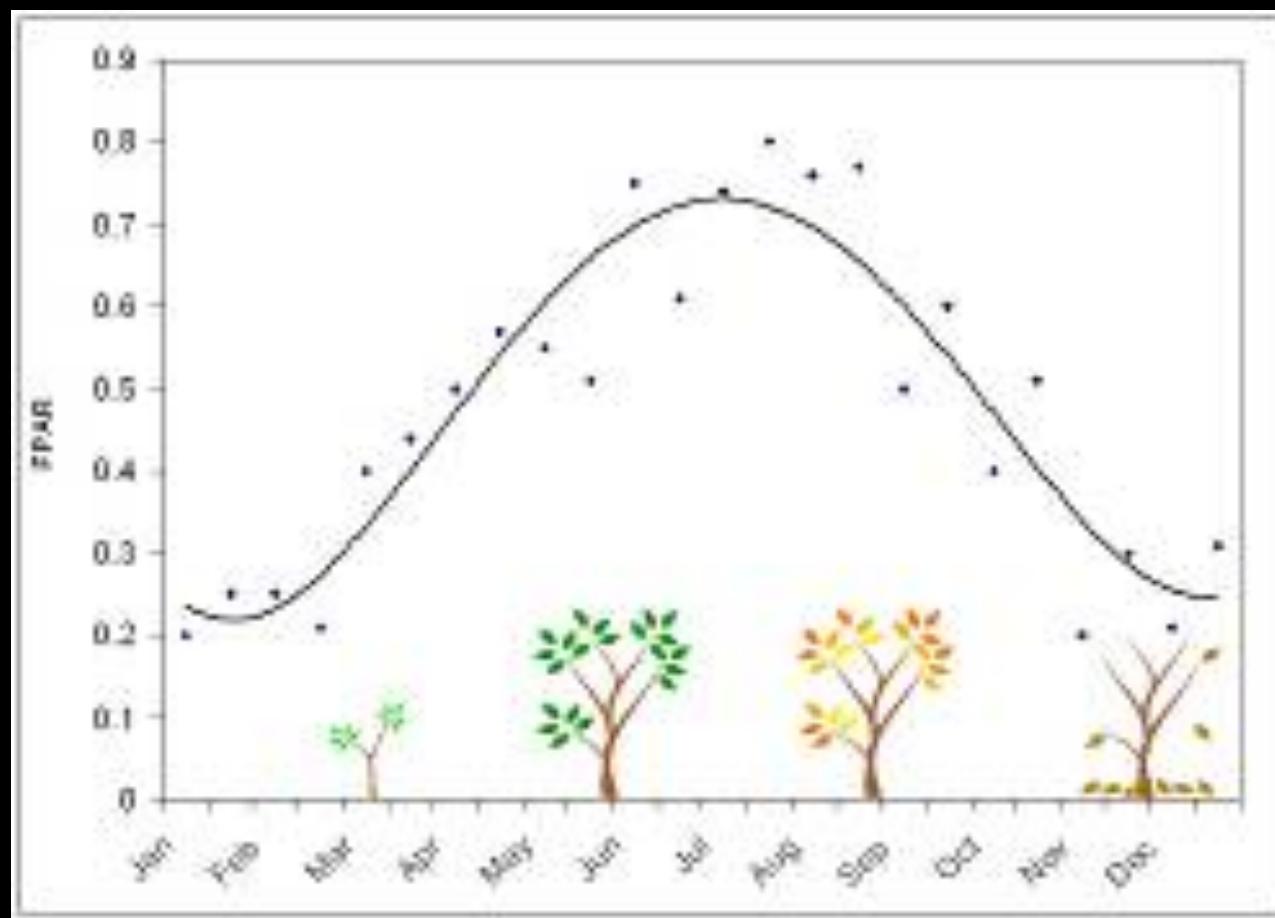
II. Datasets: Composite and annual DHIs



III. Proof of concept: DHIs and biodiversity



# The Dynamic Habitat Indices



# The Dynamic Habitat Indices

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## Ecology

Available energy hypothesis



## DHIs

Cumulative productivity

Environmental stress hypothesis



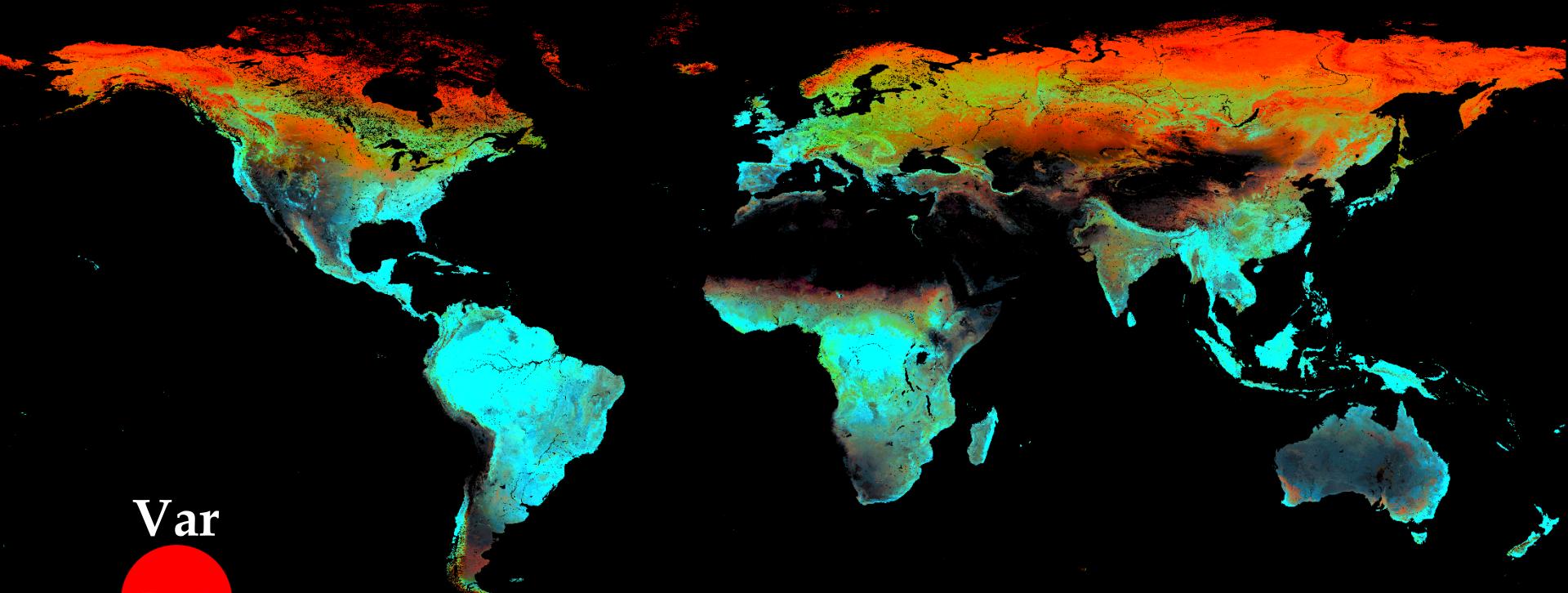
Minimum productivity

Environmental variability hypothesis



Coefficient of variation

# The Dynamic Habitat Indices

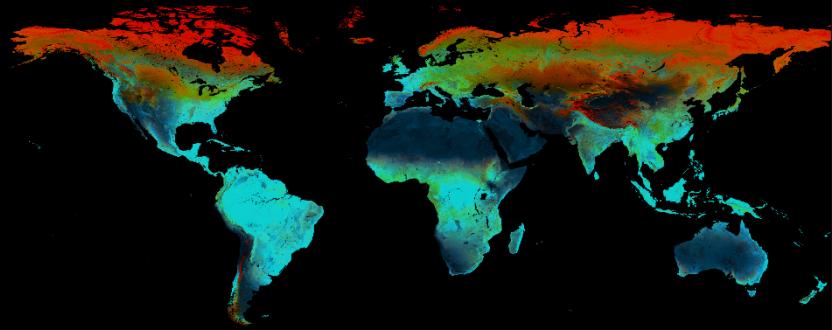


Var  
Cum  
Min

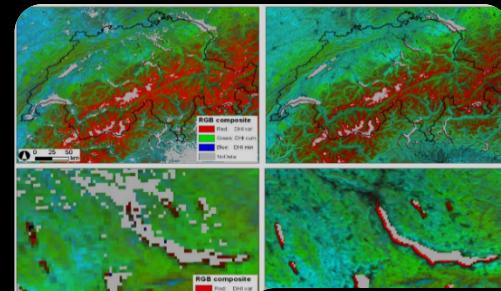
FPAR DHIs

# Outline

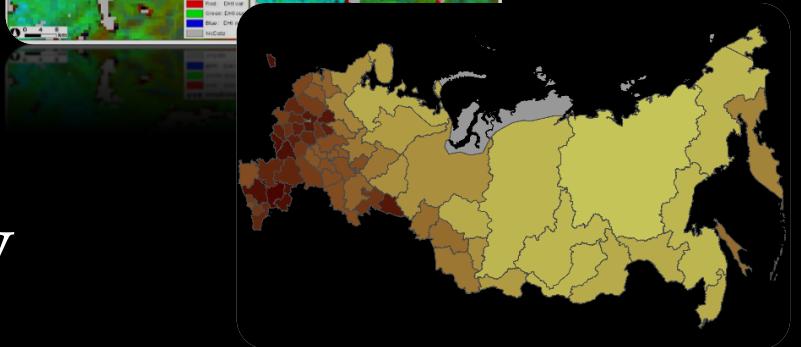
I. Background: the Dynamic Habitat Indices



II. Datasets: Composite and annual DHIs



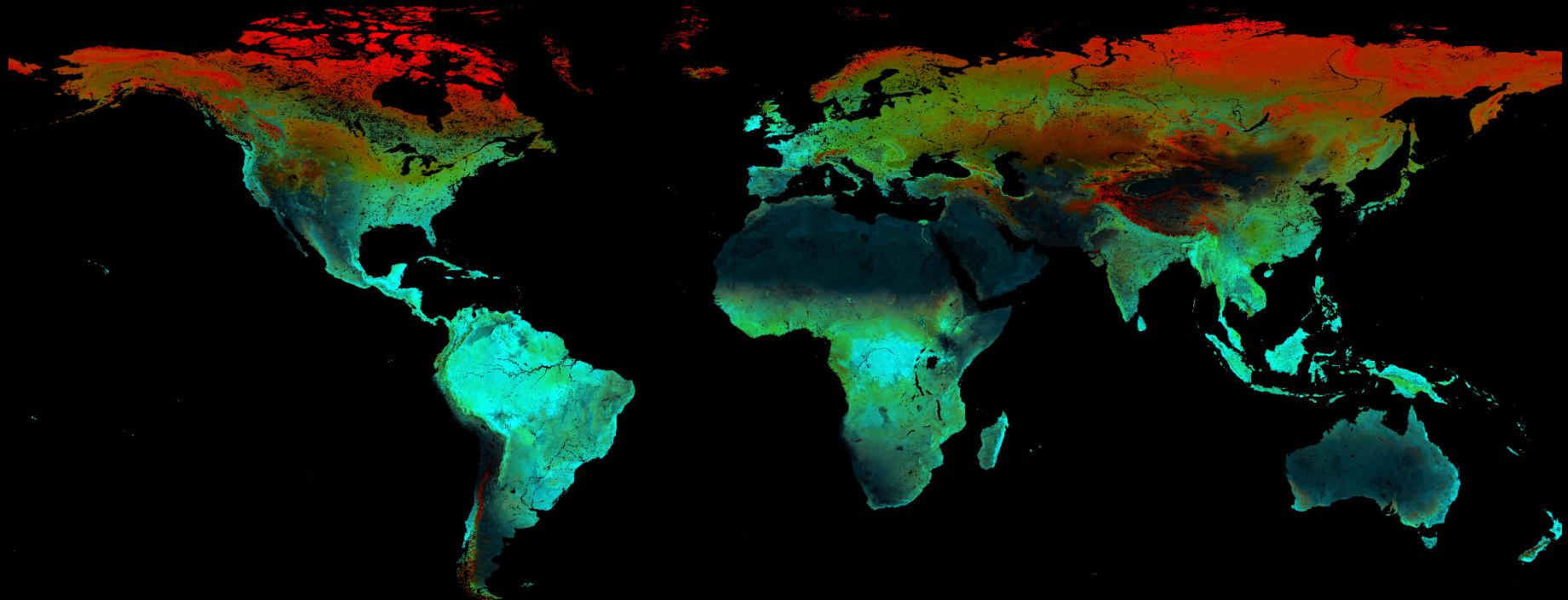
III. Proof of concept: DHIs and biodiversity



# Datasets

- MODIS Composite DHIs for 2003-2014
  - Why: MODIS vegetation data have some noise and phenology varies among years
  - Why: Some biodiversity data, e.g., range maps, have no clear date
  - What it is: The median of all observations for a given date

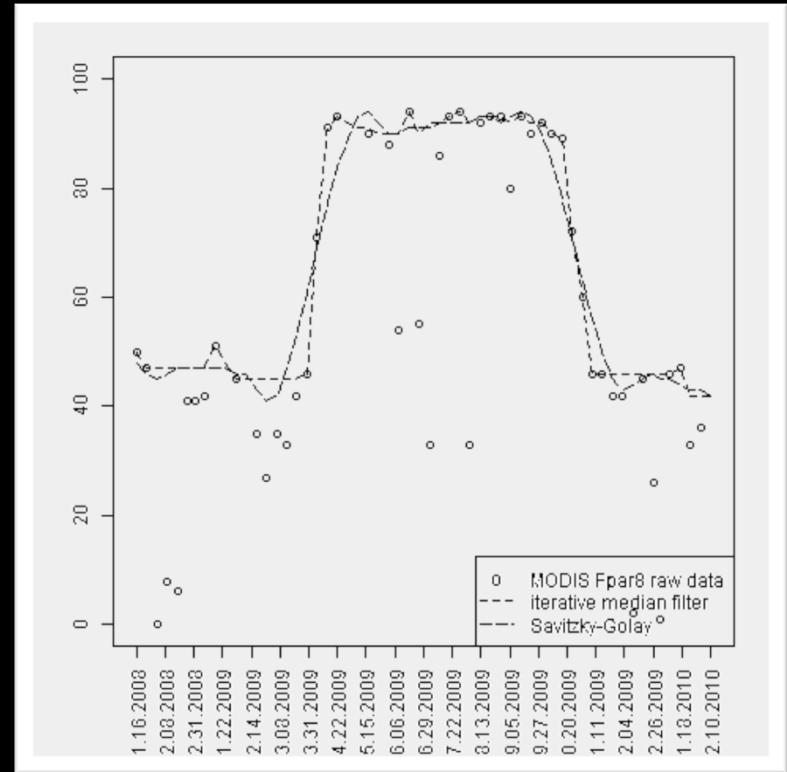
# Datasets



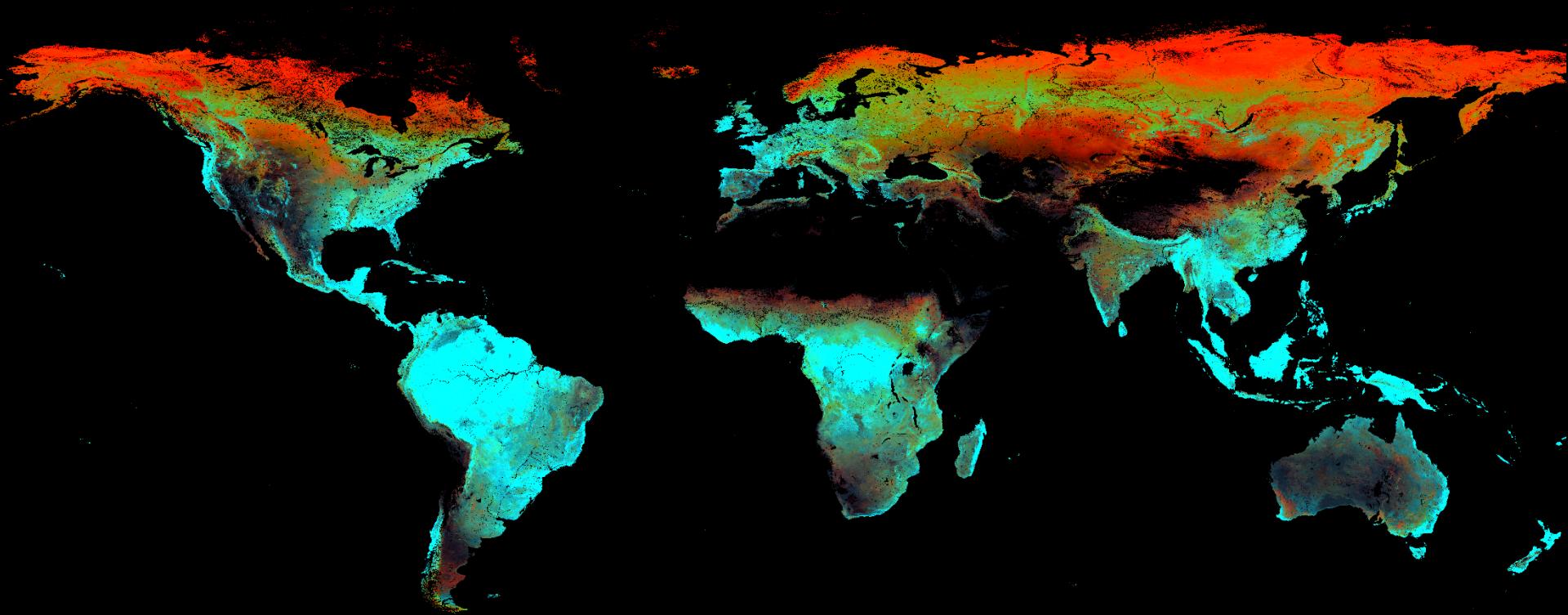
Composite 1-km EVI DHIs

# Datasets

- Annual DHIs
  - Why: Interannual variability is important
  - Smoothing annual phenology
    - Iterative median
    - Savitzky-Golay



# Datasets



FPAR DHIs 2012

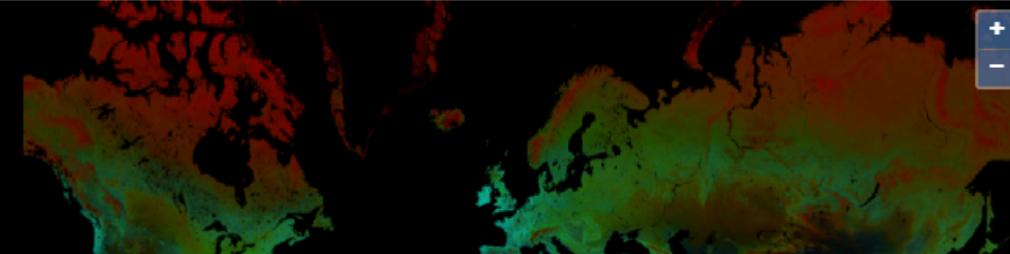
### Dynamic Habitat Indices

**VARIABLE**

- NDVI16
- EVI16
- FPAR8
- LAI8
- GPP8

**Enhanced Vegetation Index**
**BANDS**

- RGB composite (3-1-2)
- Band 1 (cumulative)
- Band 2 (minimum)
- Band 3 (secondary)
- All products



[silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/DHIs](http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/DHIs)



5000 km

### DOWNLOADS

Vegetation Index	Composite DHIs from 2003 -2014 MODIS data	Smoothed annual DHIs												
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NDVI16 Normalized Difference Vegetation Index	NDVI16 Composite DHIs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EVI16 Enhanced Vegetation Index	EVI16 Composite DHIs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
FPAR8 Fraction absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation	FPAR8 Composite DHIs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
LAI8 Leaf Area Index	LAI8 Composite DHIs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
GPP8 Gross Primary Production	GPP8 Composite DHIs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

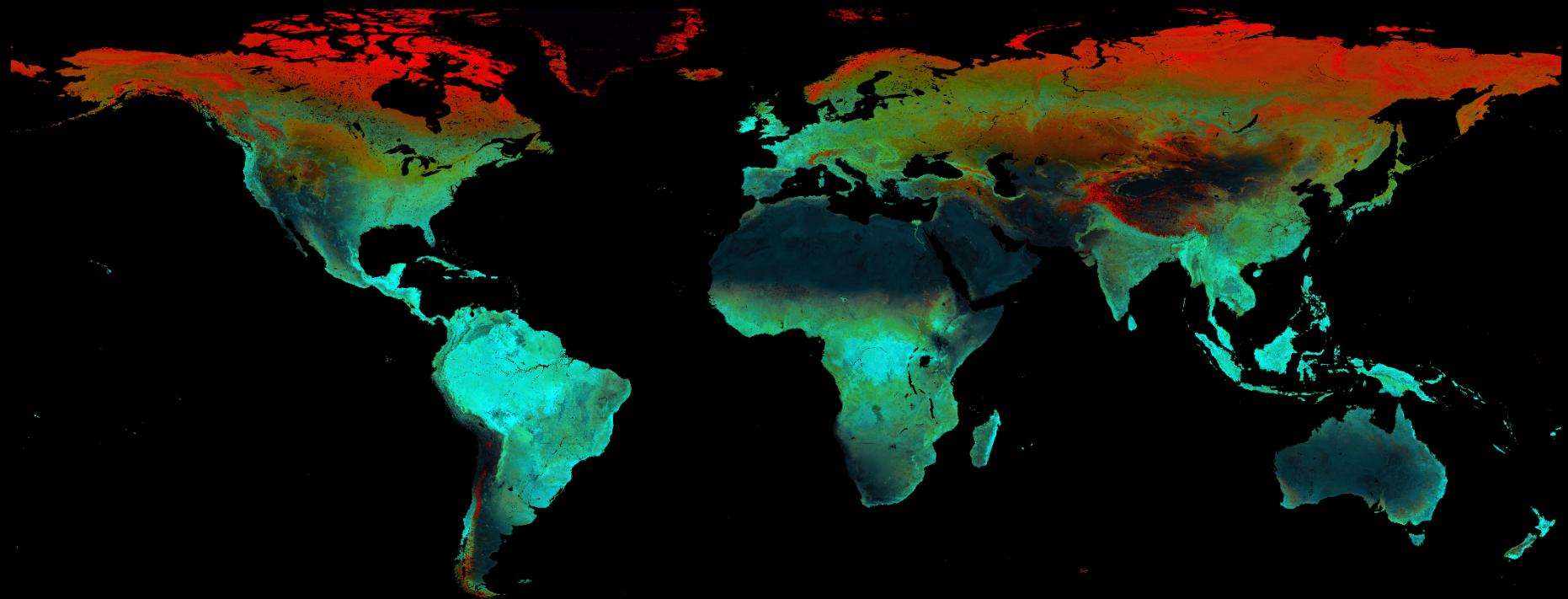
All DHIs datasets are single composite RGB images stored in GeoTIFF format at 1 kilometer spatial resolution. Map projection is WGS84 (EPSG:4326).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Hobi, M.L., Dubinin, M., Graham, C.H., Coops, N.C., Clayton, M.K., Pidgeon, A.M., & Radeloff, V.C. (2017). A comparison of Dynamic Habitat Indices derived from different MODIS products as predictors of avian species richness. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 195, 142-152.

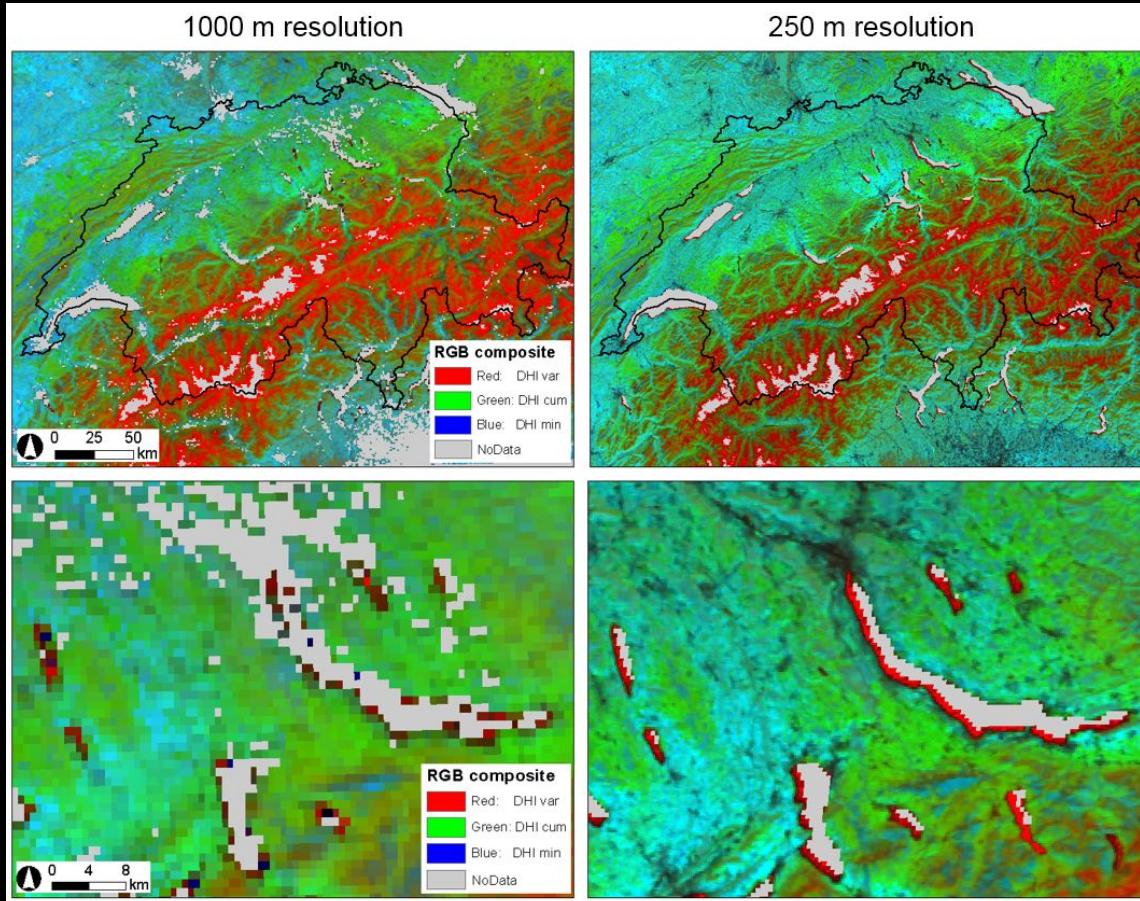
[PDF](#)

# Datasets



Composite 250-m EVI DHIs

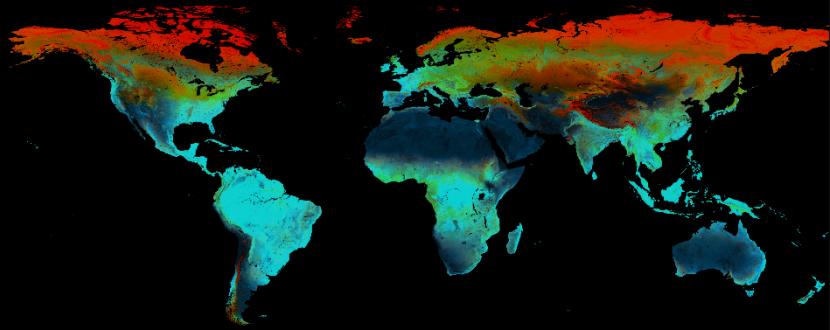
# Datasets



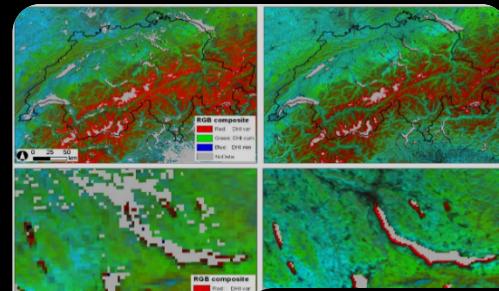
1-km vs. 250-m EVI DHIs

# Outline

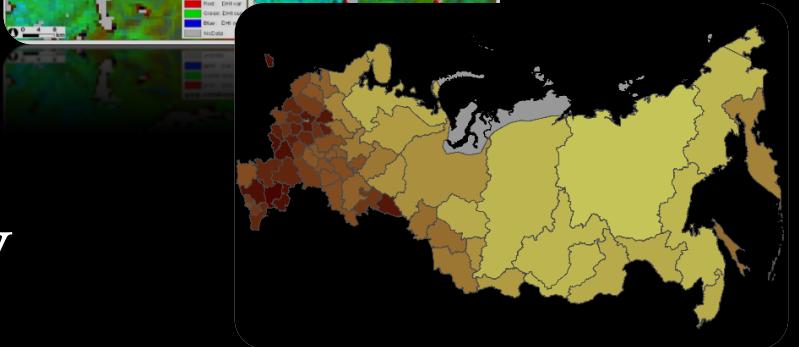
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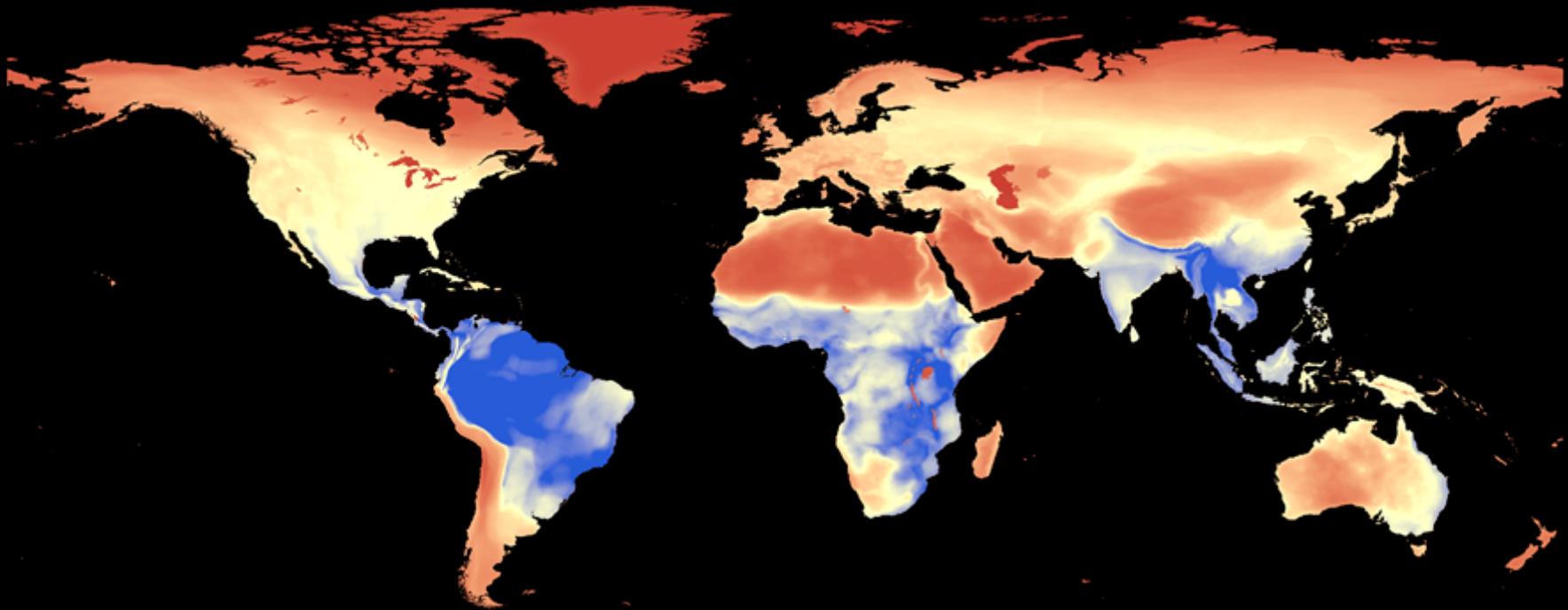
II. Datasets: Composite and annual DHIs



III. Proof of concept: DHIs and biodiversity

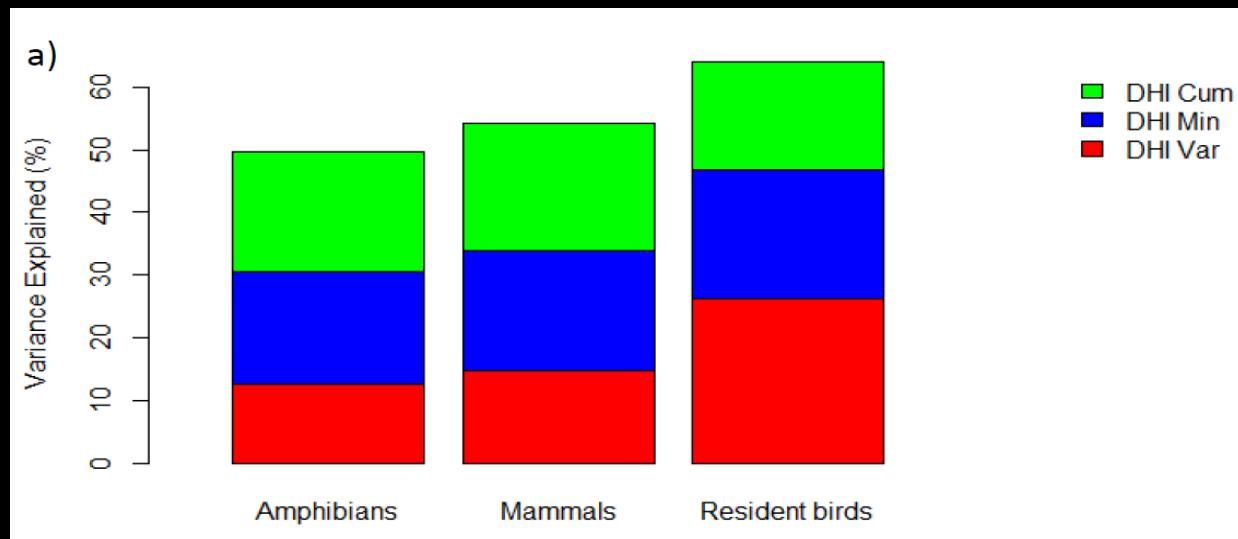


# DHIs and global biodiversity

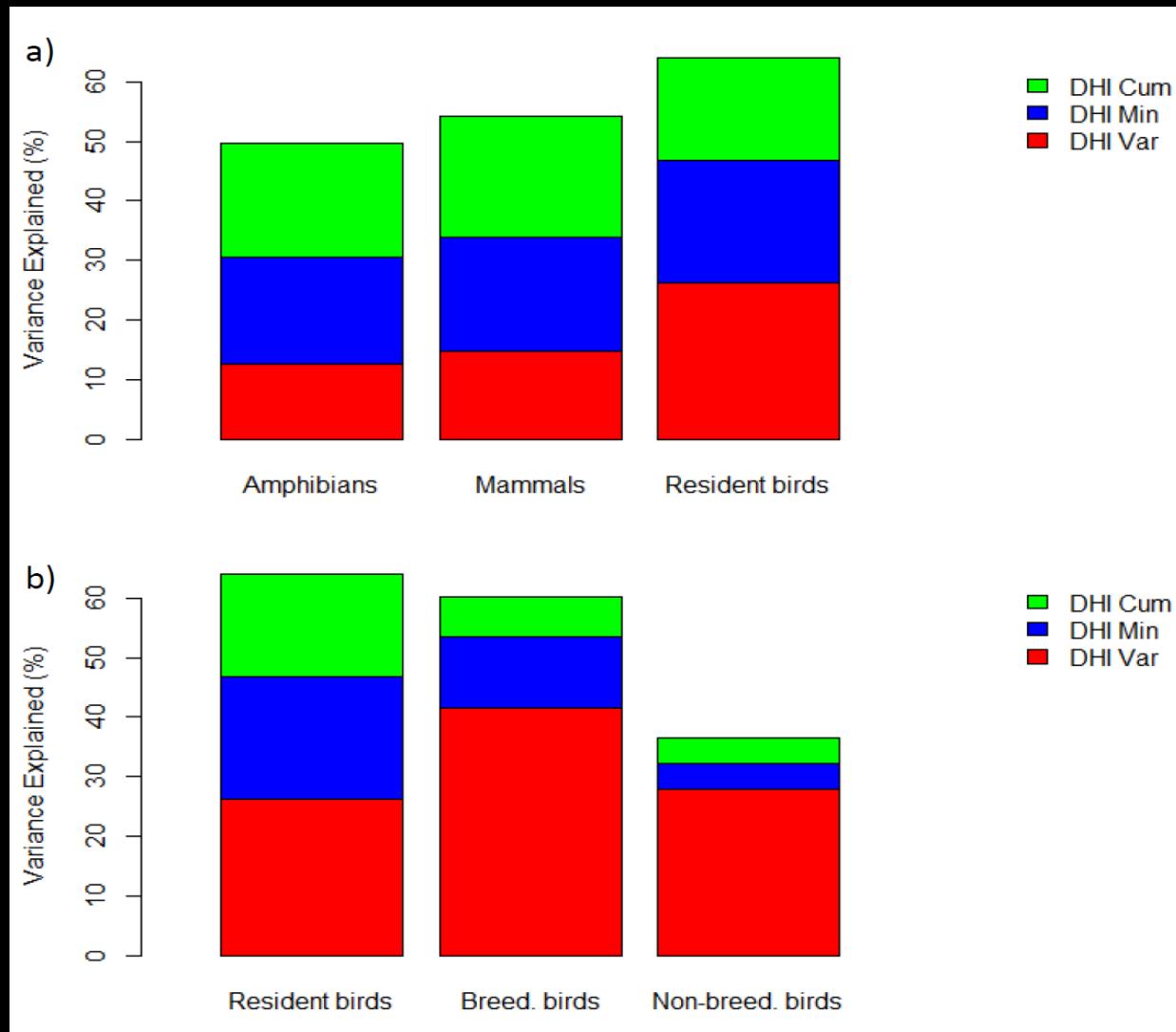


Birds

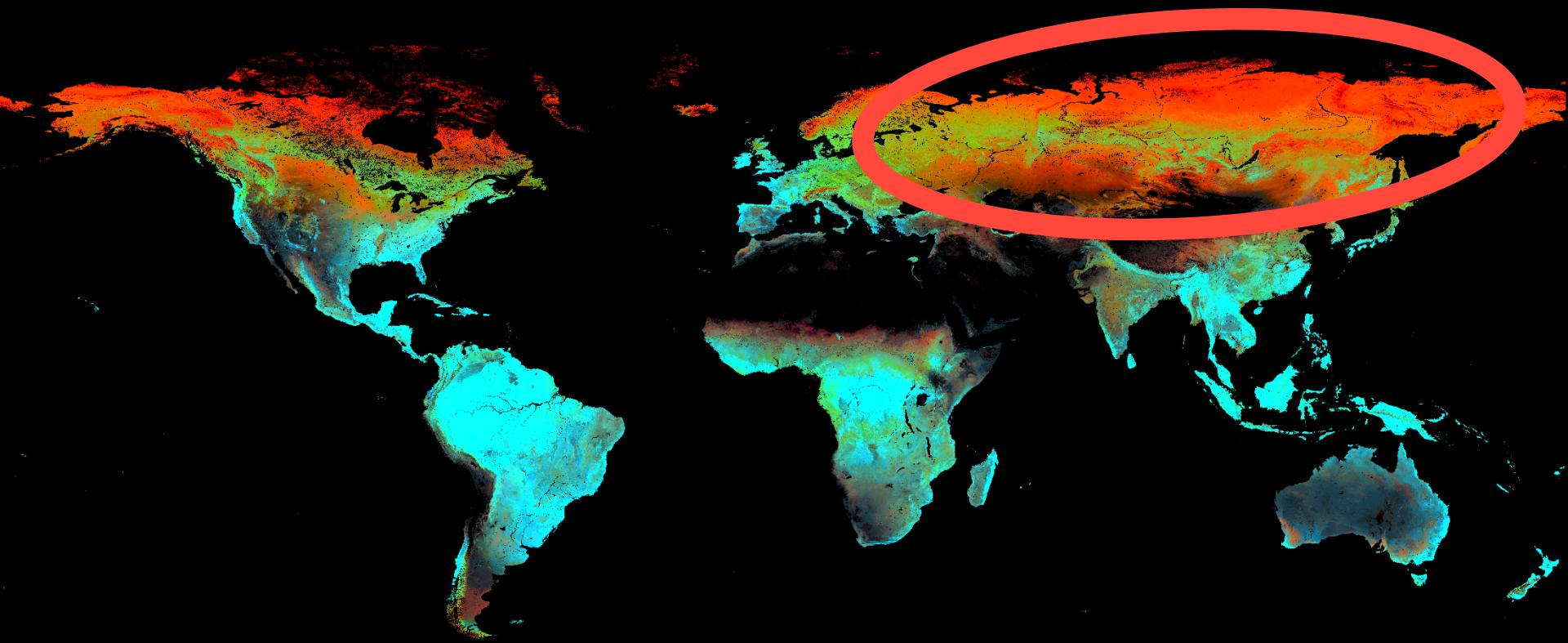
# DHIs and global biodiversity



# DHIs and global biodiversity



# DHIs and abundances



Composite FPAR DHIs

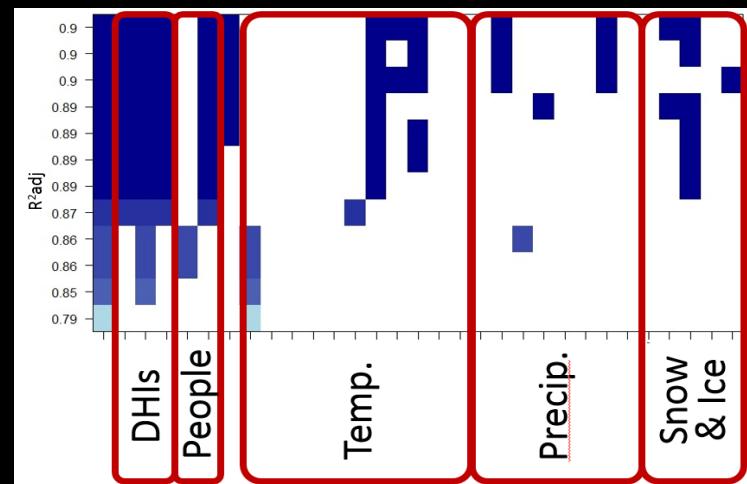
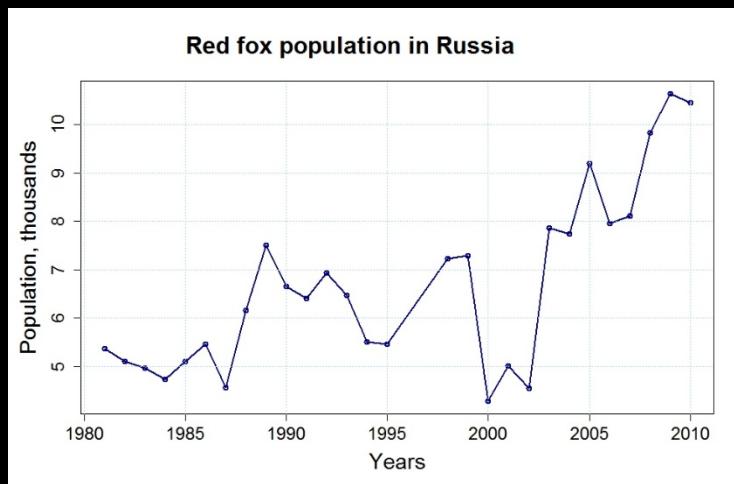
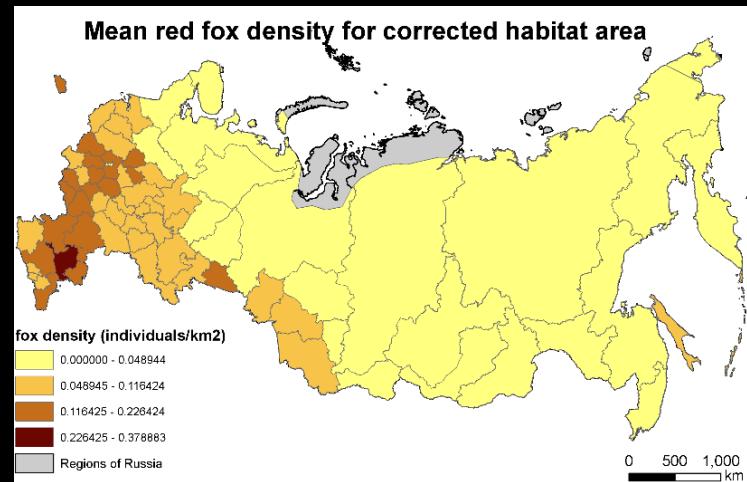
# DHIs and abundances



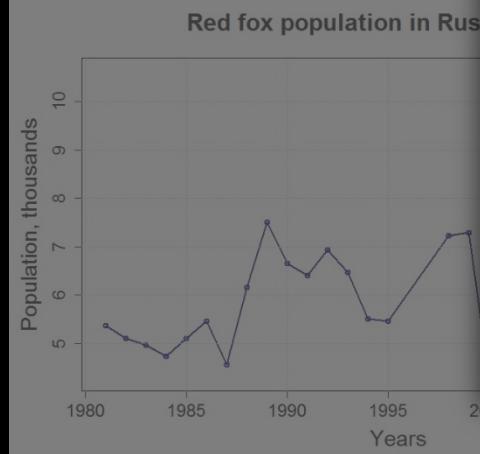
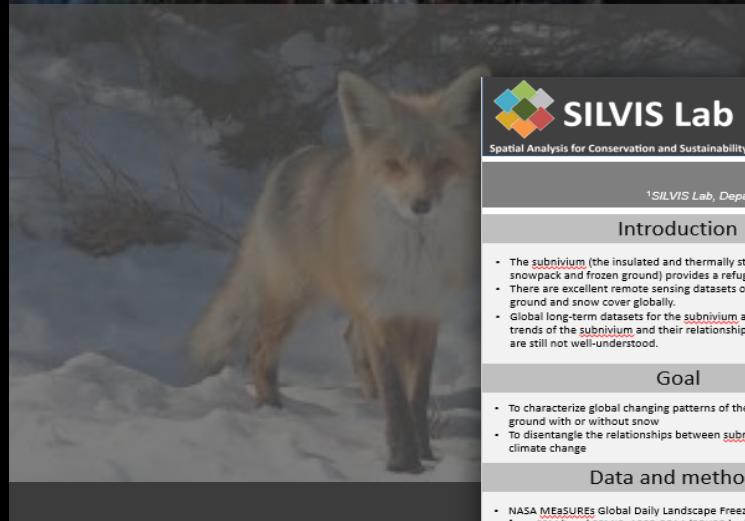
- Russian Winter Track Counts
  - 50,000 transects
  - 10-km long
  - Start in 1966



# DHIs and abundances



# DHIs and abundances



**SILVIS Lab**  
Spatial Analysis for Conservation and Sustainability

**Mean red fox density for corrected habitat area**

**Global response of the duration of frozen ground with and without snow cover to climate change**

Likai Zhu<sup>1</sup>, Volker C. Radeloff<sup>1</sup>, and Anthony R. Ives<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>SILVIS Lab, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

**Introduction**

- The subnivium (the insulated and thermally stable area between snowcover and frozen ground) provides a refuge for organisms.
- There are excellent remote sensing datasets of frozen/thawed ground across continents globally.
- Global long-term datasets for the subnivium are lacking, and global trends of the subnivium and their relationships with climate change are still not well-understood.

**Goal**

- To characterize global changing patterns of the duration of frozen ground with or without snow
- To disentangle the relationships between subnivium and winter climate change

**Data and methods**

- NASA MEASURES Global Daily Landscape Freeze/Thaw Status data from SSM/I and SSMIS: 1982–2014 (25×25 km)
- Weekly JASMES snow cover data from AVHRR and MODIS: 1982–2014 (5×5 km)
- Climate Research Unit monthly gridded temperature (0.5×0.5°)

```

graph TD
    A[Global daily freeze/thaw records] --> B[Filtering "outliers"]
    A --> C[Global weekly snow cover data]
    B --> D[Interpolating cloud pixels]
    C --> D
    D --> E[Filtered daily freeze/thaw records]
    E --> F[Interpolating weekly snow cover data]
    F --> G[Defining the timing and duration of the frozen season]
    G --> H[The start of the frozen season]
    G --> I[The end of the frozen season]
    H --> J[The length of the frozen season]
    J --> K[Duration of snow-covered ground (Dws)]
    J --> L[Duration of snow-free frozen ground (Dwos)]
  
```

**Change in  $D_{ws}$  and  $D_{wos}$**

**Fig. 1** Global changing pattern of the duration of snow-covered ground ( $D_{ws}$ ) from 1982 to 2013. We used an autoregressive model of order 1 (AR(1)) to detect the trend. (a) changing slope, (b) changing pattern with statistical test.

**Correlation between  $D_{ws}$ ,  $D_{wos}$  and FST**

**Fig. 4** Global patterns of the correlation coefficients (a) between  $D_{ws}$  and frozen season temperature, (b) between  $D_{wos}$  and frozen season temperature.

**Sensitivity of correlation to mean FST**

**Fig. 5** Sensitivity of (a) the correlation between  $D_{ws}$  and frozen season temperature (FST) and (b) the correlation between  $D_{wos}$  and FST to mean FST (1982–2013)

**Main conclusions**

- We developed a 5-km spatial resolution dataset globally from 1982 to 2013 which enables assessing global changes of the subnivium.
- $D_{ws}$  has a general negative correlation with frozen season temperature (FST), while  $D_{wos}$  has a positive correlation with FST mainly at mid-latitudes.
- With an increase in mean FST, the negative association between  $D_{ws}$  and FST becomes stronger, and the relationship between  $D_{ws}$  and FST changes from negative to positive correlation.
- Climate warming might cause an increase in  $D_{wos}$  at mid-latitudes, resulting in functionally cooling environment for organisms depending on subnivium.

**References**

Hou L. et al. (2017) A 30-year (1979–2015) Northern Hemisphere daily snow-cover extent product derived using consistent objective criteria from satellite-borne optical sensors. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 191, 402–418.

Kim Y. et al. (2017) An ensemble global Earth system data record on daily landscape freeze-thaw status derived from passive microwave remote sensing. *Earth System Science Data*, 9, 133–147.

Zhu L. et al. (2017) Characterizing global patterns of frozen ground with and without snow cover using microwave and MODIS satellite data products. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 193, 158–178.

**Contact information**  
Likai Zhu  
Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, WI 53706

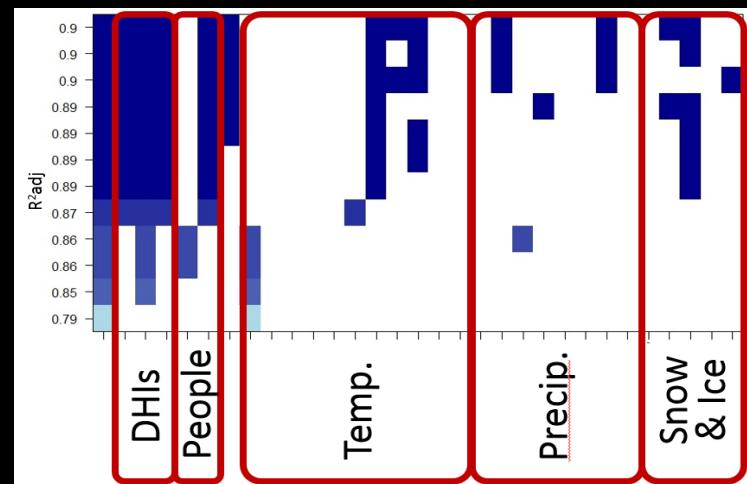
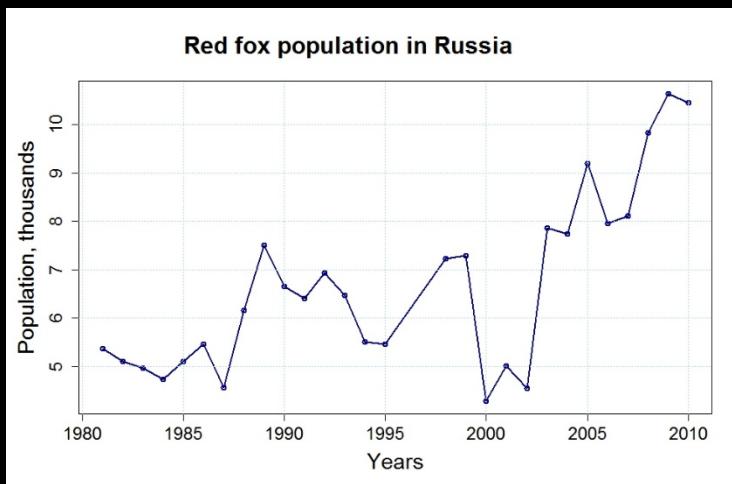
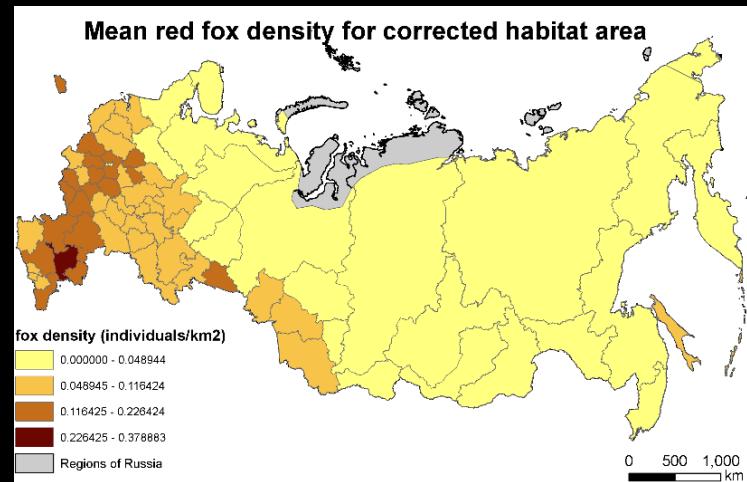
**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Tel: +1-608-556-9456  
E-mail: lizhu@wisc.edu  
http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu

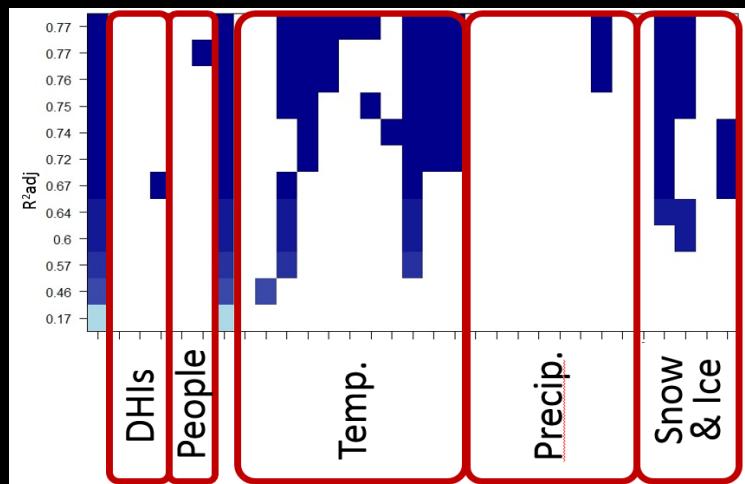
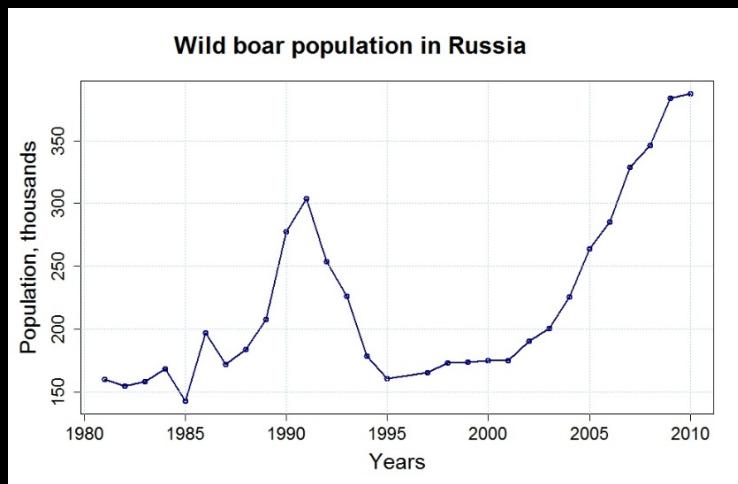
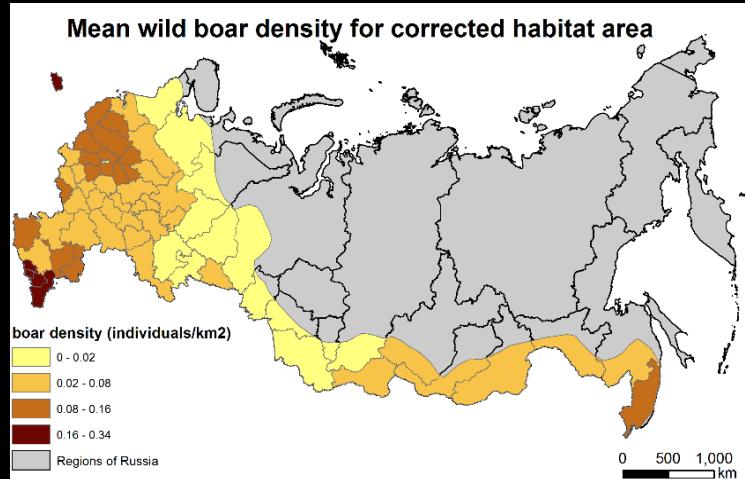
**Acknowledgements**  
We gratefully acknowledge support by:  
NSF's Dimensions of Biodiversity program,  
NASA's Biodiversity and Ecological Forecasting program.

**Logos**  
NSF NASA

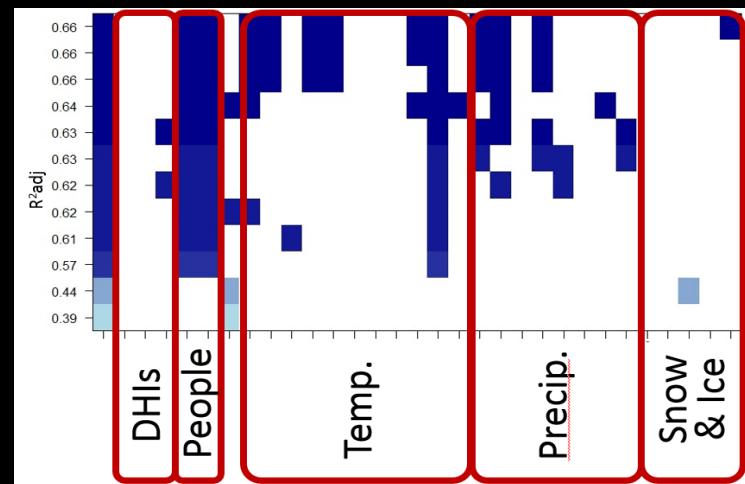
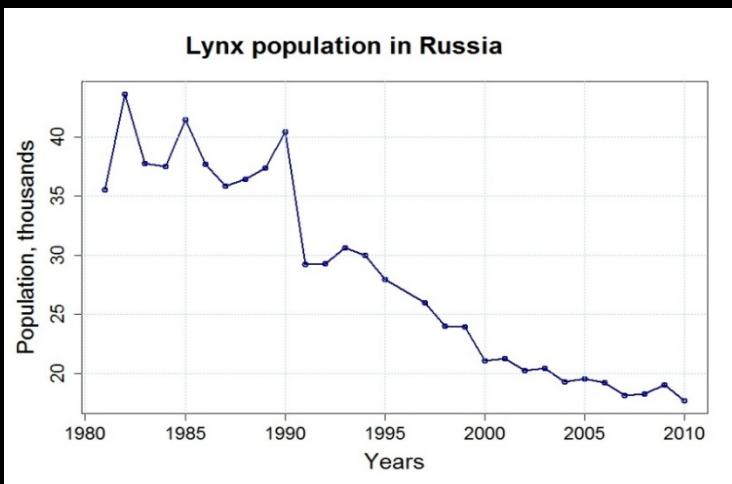
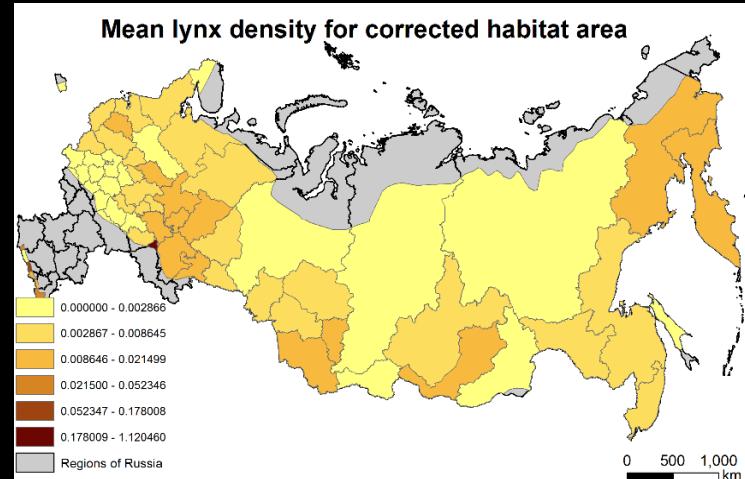
# DHIs and abundances



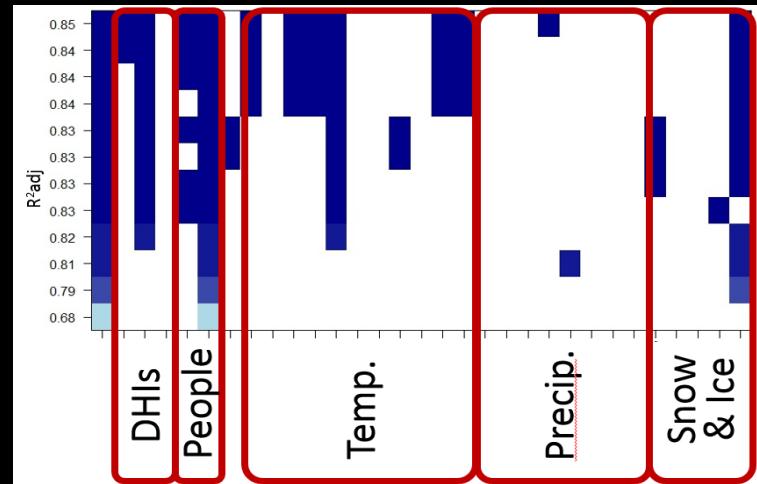
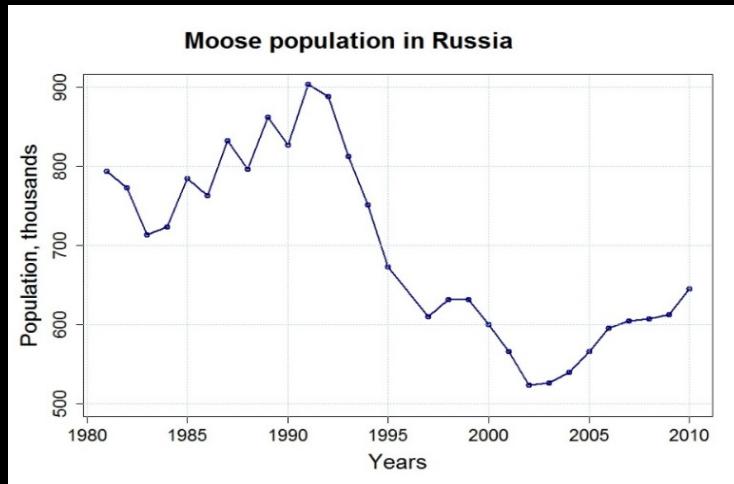
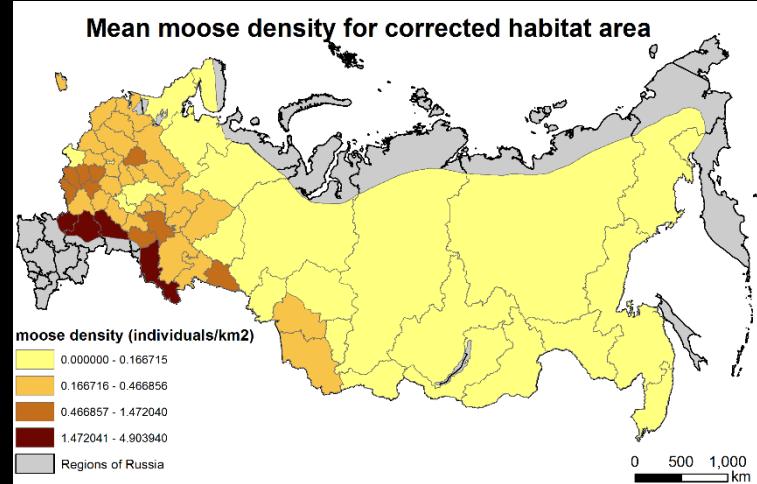
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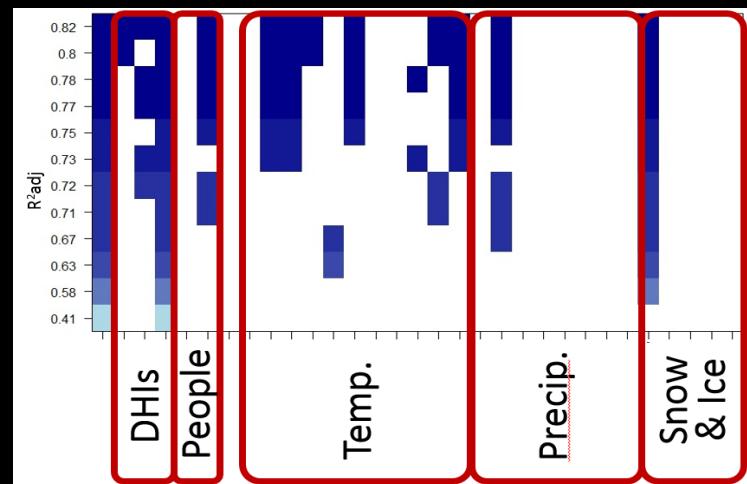
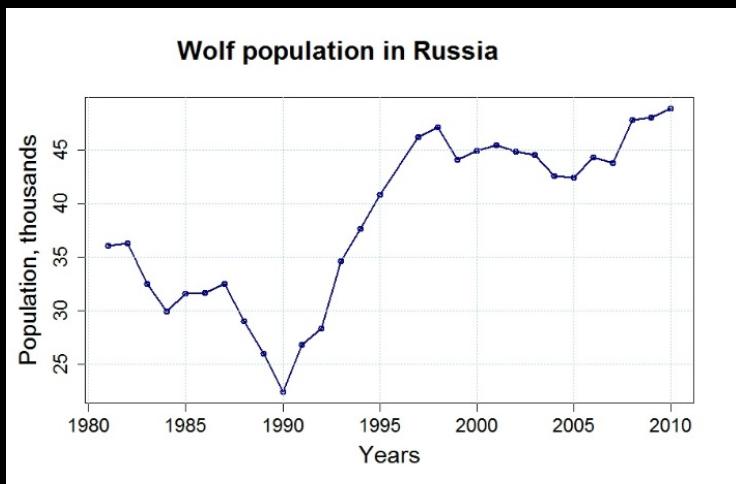
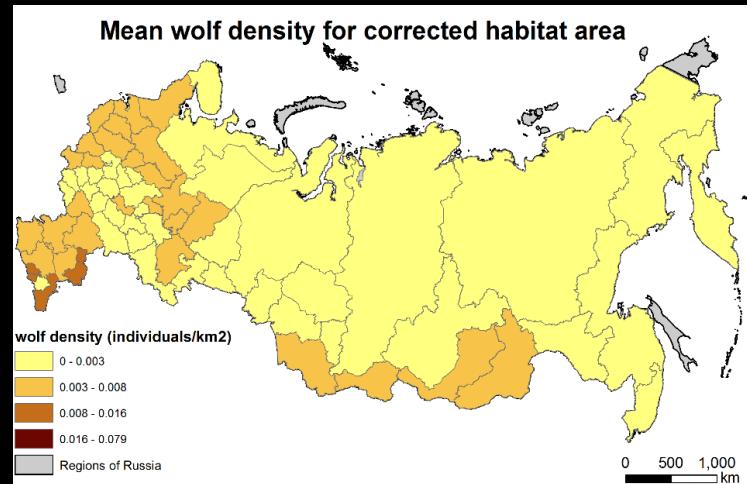
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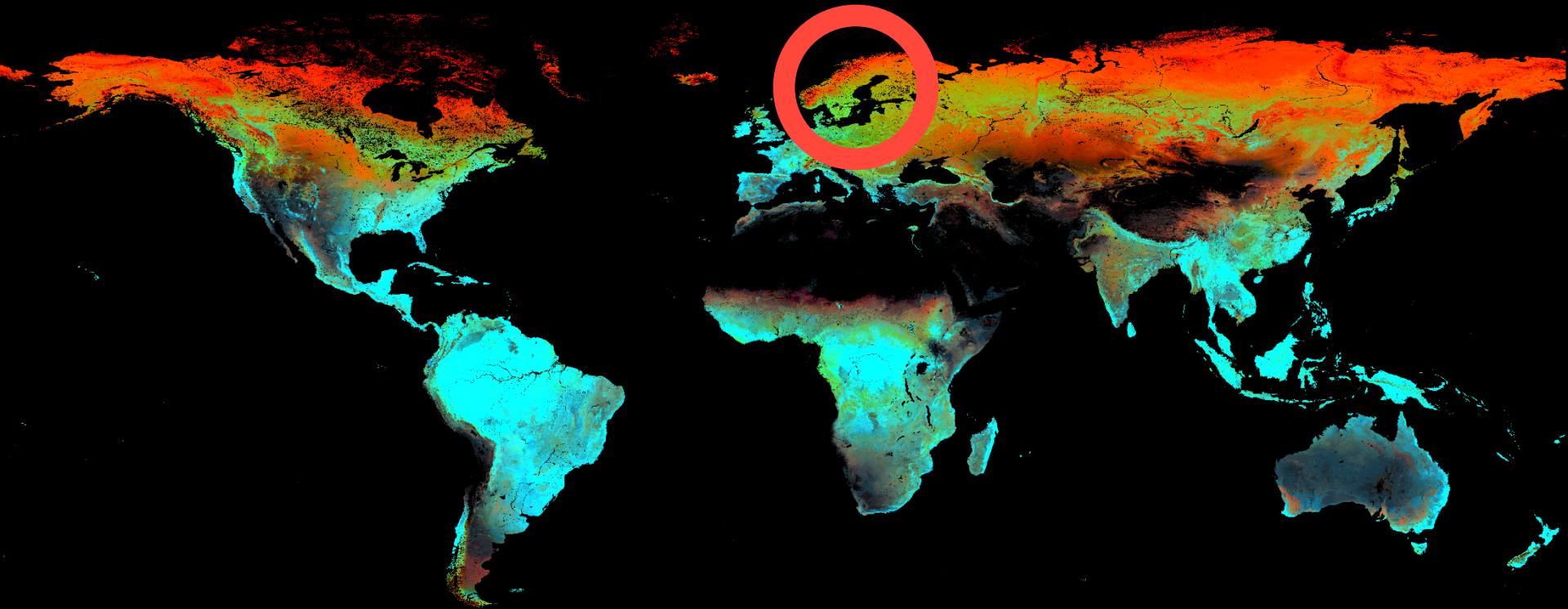
# DHIs and abundances



# DHIs and abundances



# DHIs and abundances



Composite FPAR DHIs

# DHIs and abundances



# DHIs and abundances



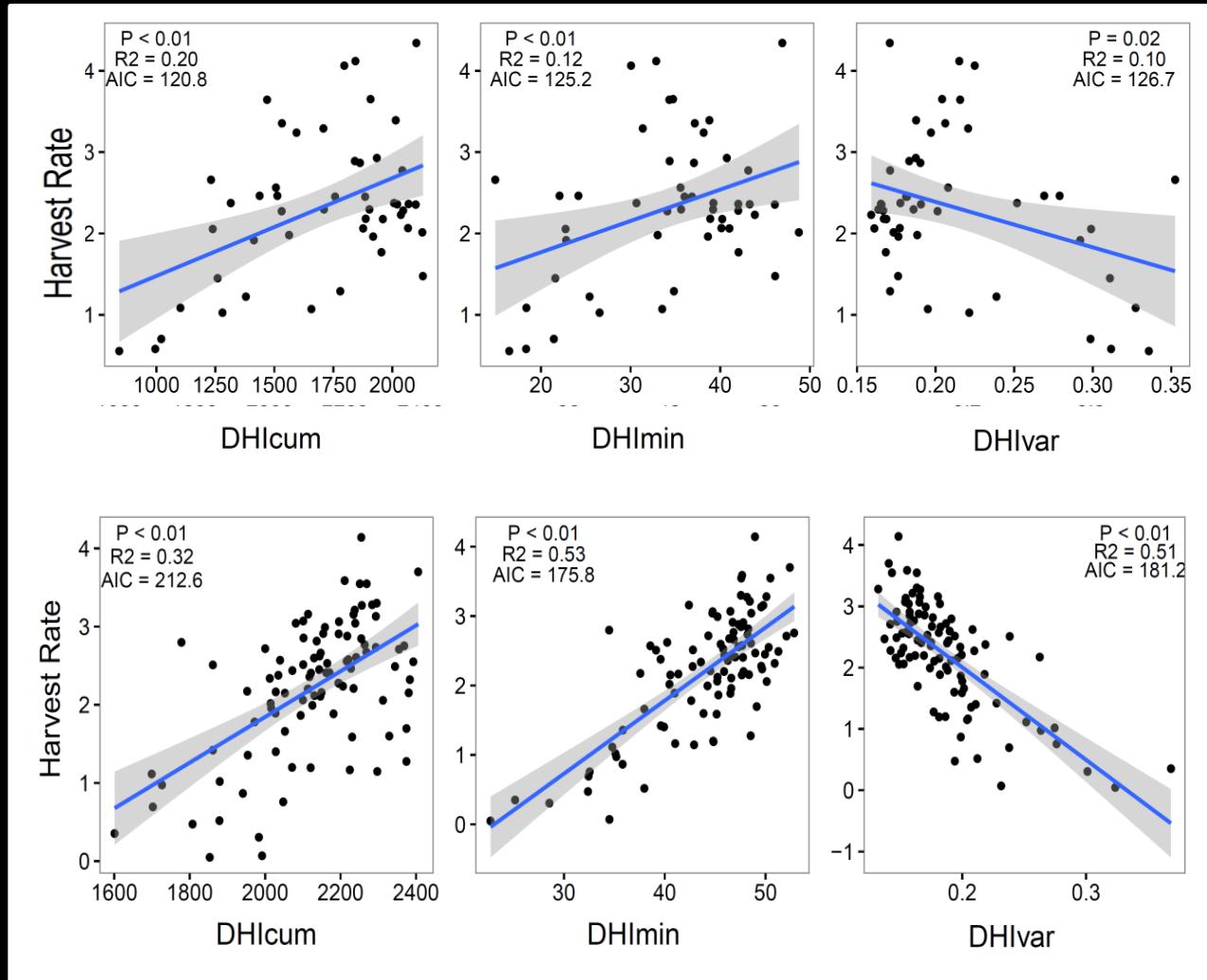
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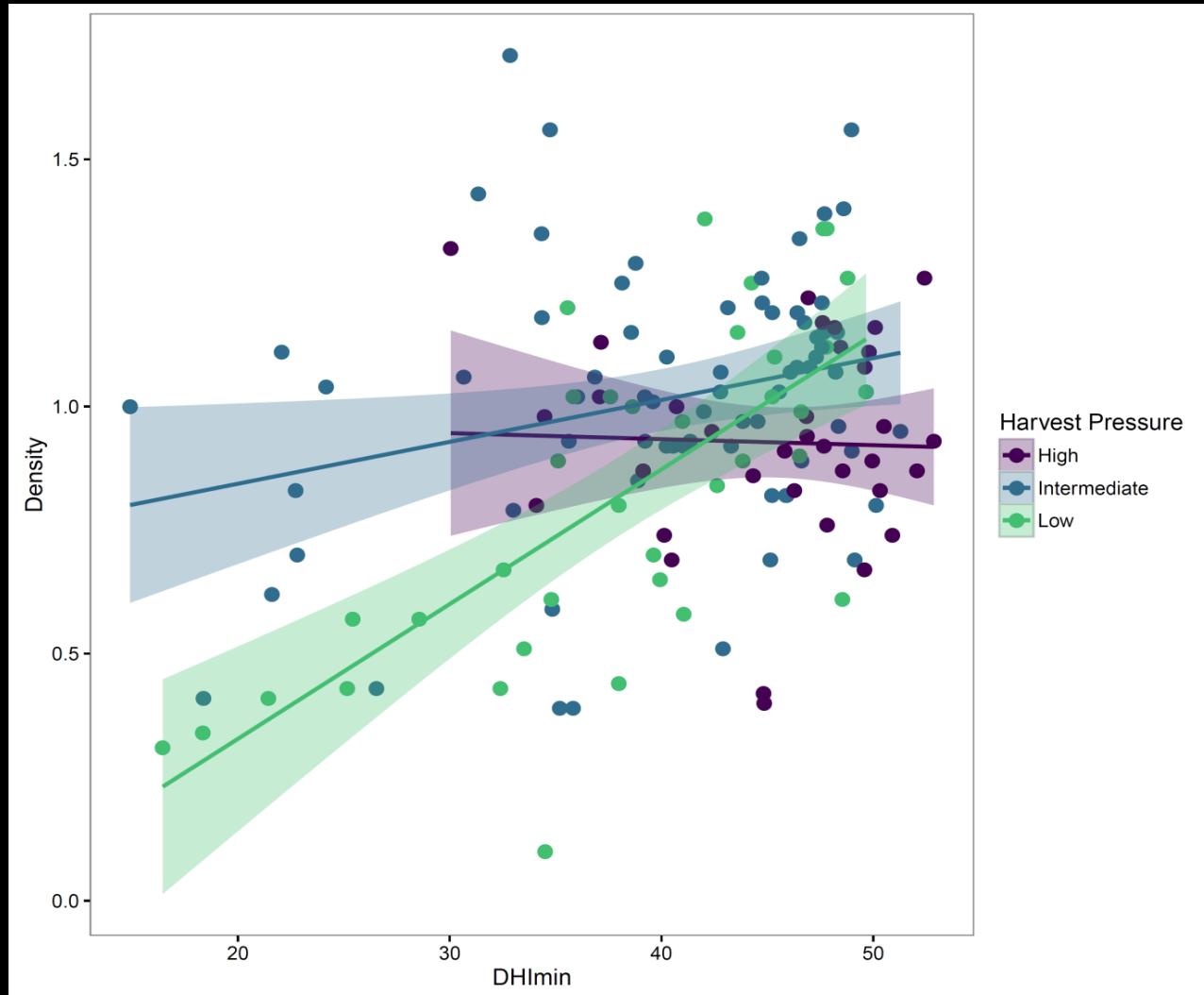
# DHIs and abundances

Northern  
Sweden:  
Low  
productivity

Southern  
Sweden:  
High  
productivity

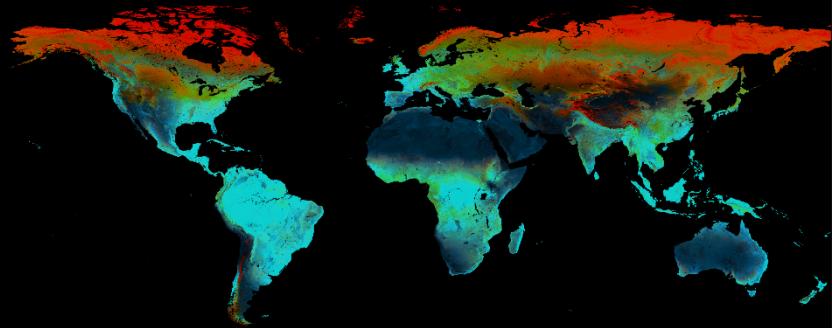


# DHIs and abundances

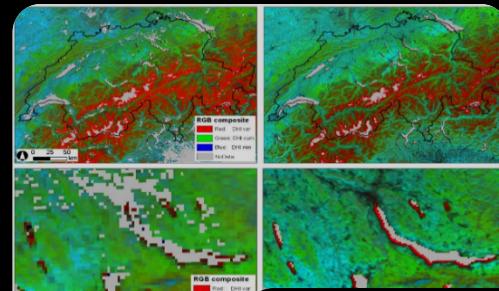


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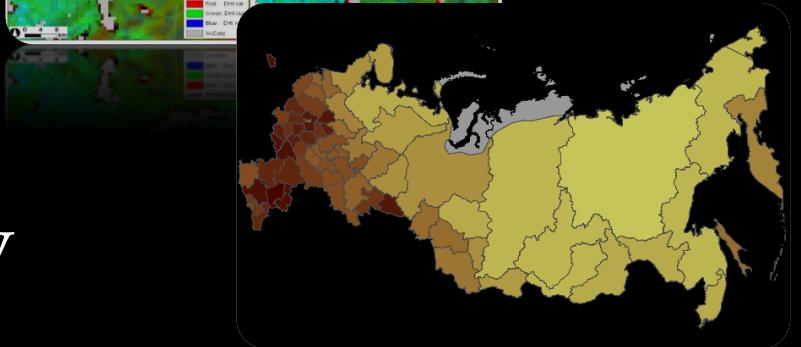
I. Background: the Dynamic Habitat Indices



II. Datasets: Composite and annual DHIs



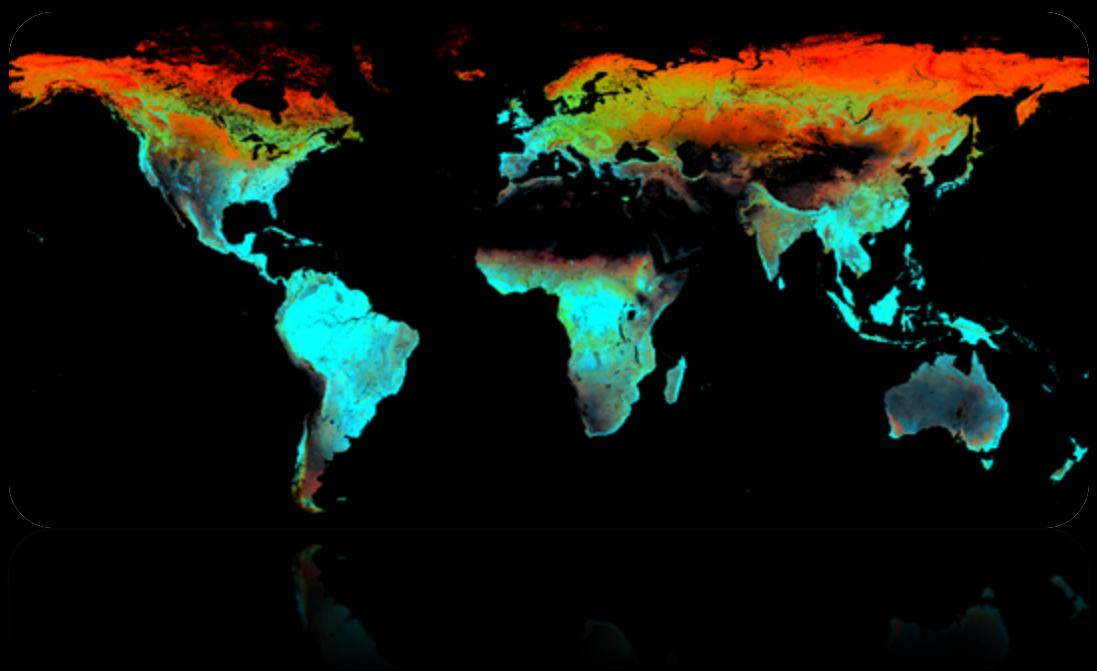
III. Proof of concept: DHIs and biodiversity



# Conclusions

## I. Background

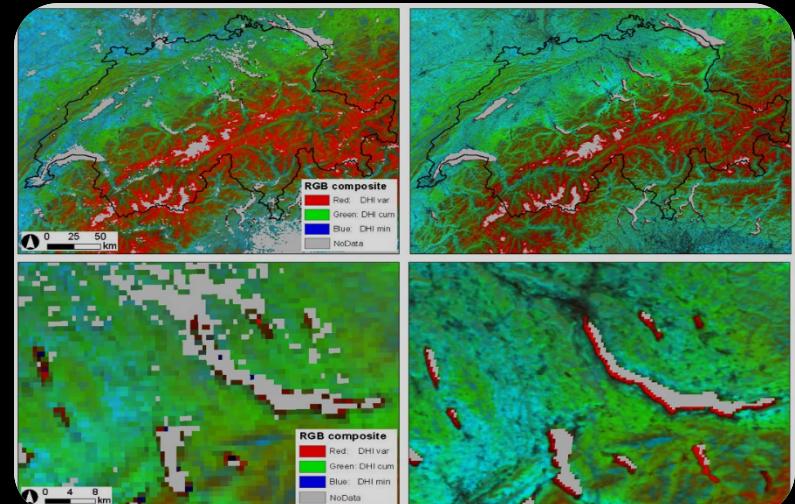
- The DHIs are based on biodiversity theory
- Three indices of productivity that are key for biodiversity



# Conclusions

## II. Datasets: completed

- Composite DHIs
- Annual DHIs
- Available for you!



# Conclusions

## III. DHIs and biodiversity

- Well correlated with global species richness
  - All three DHIs matter
- Well correlated with wildlife abundances
  - DHIs contribute to multivariate models
- Well correlated with predation rates
  - In highly productive areas, as they should



[silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/DHIs](http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/DHIs)  
raadeloff@wisc.edu

Thanks!



# DHIs and abundances

	Cum DHI	Min DHI	Var DHI	Human	Elevation	Temp.	Precip.	Snow/ Ice	$R^2_{adj}$
Brown bear					+	+	+	+	0.77
Hare	+		+		+	+	+	+	0.94
Lynx				+	+	+	+		0.67
Red fox	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	0.90
Wild boar				+	+	+	+	+	0.79
Roe deer				+		+	+	+	0.66
Moose	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	0.85
Wolf	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	0.82